



## Utah School Readiness Board

### Meeting Minutes

<https://www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/notice/833889.html>

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Location: Department of Workforce Services  
720 South 200 East  
SLC, UT 84111  
Conference Room 100

*The following link will take you to the power point which was shared throughout the meeting which may be helpful while reading through the minutes:* <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/979621.pdf>

Link to the agenda:

<https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/981547.pdf>

Link to the audio recording:

<https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/982625.mp3>

**Board Member Attendees:** Jeremias Solari, Rebecca Banner, Trent Kaufman, Janis Dubno, Seung- Hee Claire Son, Annie Frazier, Amy Terpstra, Jared Lisonbee for Jennifer Thronsden, Jamie Bitton, Marie Steffensen

Excused Board Members:

**Other Attendees:** Ashley Trujillo, Emma Moench, Kim Carter, Janalee Goodrich, Copeta, Madeline Lee, Agudino, Tara Boswell, Tara Keyes, Brian Barney, Kim Carter, Lola Stansfield, Shauna Kendell, Loreen Flanary, Amanda McPeck, Haley Bemis, Julie Orme, Recasey, Elliot Laurence, Samantha Mafua, Chelsea Oaks

| AGENDA ITEM | DISCUSSION  | RECOMMENDATIONS and ACTION |
|-------------|---|----------------------------|
| Welcome     | <p>I. Jeremias Solari welcomed the group.</p> <p>A. <i>The following link will take you to the power point which was shared throughout the meeting which may be helpful while reading through the</i></p> |                            |

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|                                | <i>minutes: <a href="https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/979621.pdf">https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/979621.pdf</a></i>   |  |
| Approval of Minutes            | I. Approval of 3/22/2023 drafted meeting minutes  | Jeremias Solari called for a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes. Rebecca Banner made a motion to approve 3/22/23 meeting minutes. Jaime Bitton seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. Minutes approved. |
| Board Membership Update        | Emma Moench <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Jamie Bitton has been appointed by DWS to serve another term.</li> <li>B. Janis Dubno's term is ending and she is stepping down from being on the board. USBE has selected Linda Chadburn to be her replacement and will be effective July 1, 2023.</li> </ul>  |  |
| Points of Motion or Discussion | I. Proposed Changes to the Application Process for SY 25 - Emma Moench <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Emma Moench announced the next meeting in September will move from September 20, 2023 to September 6, 2023 to allow the school readiness team to make any changes the board would like to see.</li> </ul>  |  |
|                                | I. School Readiness Grant Application Process- Kimber Burks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. The application, rubric and minimum thresholds were put together by DWS- OCC, and USBE. All reviews were done as a blind review but the evaluation committee.</li> <li>B. Expanded Student Access Grant Application Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please see the slide show to view the results. <a href="https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/979621.pdf">https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/979621.pdf</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>C. Becoming High-Quality Grant Application Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We currently have 15 on contract with a commitment of 2 or 3 years and budgets have all been submitted for next year.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |  |
|                                | I. SY 2024 Budget Recommendations- Emma Moench and Chelsea Oaks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Emma Moench provided the 2024 school year recommendation code to the board for eligible student invoicing. The code can be found here: <a href="https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title35A/Chapter15/35A-15-P3.html?v=C35A-15-P3_2019051420190514">https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title35A/Chapter15/35A-15-P3.html?v=C35A-15-P3_2019051420190514</a></li> <li>B. Chelsea Oaks reminded the board \$12,000,000 was available for funding.</li> </ul>   | Jared Lisonbee motioned for Scenario 3 to be added to discussion. Jamie Bitton seconded motion. The motion was carried unanimously. Scenario 3 being added was approved.   |

C. Chelsea Oaks informed the board that there are 2 Scenarios being presented for recommendation for SY 2024.

1. Scenario 1:.

- a) Reduce Expanded Student Access (ESA) cost per seat by 13%.
- b) Reduce additional costs to items required by grant.
- c) Reduced Becoming High Quality (BHQ) funding to \$28,000 per classroom.
- d) 4 new ESA grantees, 4 new BHQ grantees.
- e) 2,197 eligible student seats.
- f) 74 BHQ classrooms funded.
- g)

2. Scenario 2:.

- a) Reduce returning ESA eligible student seats by 5% based on last year's numbers.
- b) Reduce additional costs.
- c) BHQ funding at \$30,000 per year.
- d) 1 additional ESA grantee.
- e) 14 new BHQ grantees.
- f) 1,800 eligible student seats funded.
- g) 95 BHQ classrooms to be funded.

3. Open board and SR team discussion regarding the two scenarios provided.

- a) Jared Lisonbee raised concerns with scenarios 1 and 2 due to costs per child and prioritizing new BHQ grantees over ESG grantees.
- b) Jared Lisonbee asked for a third scenario to be considered and was requested of staff prior to the meeting. Rebecca Banner informed staff prepared a third scenario 3 to review
- c)

4. Scenario 3 is a combination of both 1 and 2. It will keep ESA and BHQ at status. Focuses on using funding to more ESA grantees then high scoring BHQ grantees.

a) Scenario 3

- (1) Reduce Eligible Student Seats by 5% across all returning grantees.

Jared Lisonbee motioned for a third scenario to be considered in the discussion. Jamie Bitton seconded motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Jared Lisonbee motioned for funding Scenario 3 to be selected. Jamie Bitton seconded motion. Jamie Bitton recused her vote due to being an applicant. The motion was carried with 9 yes votes.

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(2) New ESA grantees are prioritized over all new applications.</li> <li>(3) Fund ESA addition cost only for specific items.</li> <li>(4) Returning ESA Grantees get the same number of eligible student seats they were approved for last year.</li> <li>(5) New and returning BHQ classrooms set at \$30,000/classroom.</li> <li>(6) Reduced the number of classrooms funded for new BHQ grantees..</li> <li>b) Funding breakdown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Total ESA \$10,072,218.79</li> <li>(2) Remaining Funds for BHQ \$1,927,781.21</li> <li>(3) Returning BHQ \$1,530,000.00</li> <li>(4) Remaining for new BHQ \$397,781.21</li> <li>(5)</li> <li>(6) Total ESA Seats 1,971</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Open Board and SR Team discussion was opened for all three scenarios provided. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Trent Kaufman asked for a summary of how they differentiate. Jerimias Solari summarized Scenarios: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Scenario 1 prioritizes ESA awards while minimizing BHQ and maximizing total eligible students. While minimizing total BHQ classrooms.</li> <li>(2) Scenario 2 maximizes BHQ grantees, minimizes students served and maximizes BHQ classrooms.</li> <li>(3) Scenario 3 is a compromise of the two with keeping current ESA and BHQ at status with cost and limited new awardees.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>6. Public Comment was opened. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Katrina Heard had a public comment. She thanks the board for their time and discussion.</li> <li>b) Julie Orme asked if we are reducing seats by 5%, do you round the number of seats up or down? Emma Moench clarified it would be rounded up or down depending on where the decimal point is.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |  |
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|  | <p>7. For more information on Scenario 1 and 2 please see the slide show found here: <a href="https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/979621.pdf">https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/979621.pdf</a></p>   |   |
|  | <p>I. Eligible Student Invoicing- Emma Moench</p> <p>A. Motion 22.05: Maintain current COVID-19 policy put into place during last school year and ensure that staff are getting letters accounting for low attendance rates if falling below the 80% threshold.</p> <p>B. Open table and SR team discussion was opened.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jamie Bitton stated low attendance isn't due to COVID-19 it is most likely due to the mental health state of families.</li> <li>2. Emma Moench stated 4/22 grantees are not meeting the attendance policy. We have 10 of the grantees who are at 100%. 6-7 are at 80%+.</li> <li>3. The discussion is whether to go back to precovid reimbursements. To reimburse for the number of students and not for a proposed number of students approved for.</li> <li>4. Joe Edman confirmed any amount not spent will be carried over for the next year's funding.</li> <li>5. Annie Frazier asked if we could change the name from COVID-19 to a hardship instead. Jeremias Solari informed she can enter a motion to do so but as of right now we are just looking at the motion.</li> <li>6. Emma Moench confirmed the threshold was at 100% since they were being reimbursed for the full amount of reported student attendance served.</li> <li>7. Amy Terpstra states there is a worry of misuse of funds if there is no requirement of attendance. They can continue to get the full amount if they are not planning to fill the proposed number of students.</li> <li>8. Public comment was open. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Are programs being penalized for prioritizing eligible children right away or hold the seat? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Marie Steffensen provided her thoughts regarding the question that seats that are open need to be prioritized with qualified students. Jeremias Solari asked what it was before COVID-19? Rebecca Banner replied it just</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol> | <p>Jared Lisonbee motioned to revert policy to precovid policy where programs are reimbursed based on students served rather than seats approved. Janis Dubno spoke in favor of the motion. Marie Steffensen spoke against motion. Discussion was open. Jeremias Solari suggested adjustment to 85% and not 100%. Janis was open to a substitute motion to increase the threshold over time. Jared's motion did not receive a second.</p> <p>Jamie Bitton motioned to keep the policy the same for the upcoming school year. Marie Steffensen seconded motion. Janis Dubno would support moving the threshold to 85% - 90% adjustment to time frame change. Jamie Bitton withdrew her motion. .</p> <p>Rebecca Banner motioned to change the current COVID-19 policy put in place during the last school year and ensure staff are getting letters accounting if their attendance rates fall below 85% threshold and the intent to increase the threshold every school year. Marie Steffensen seconded motion. Public comment was opened. The motion was open for voting. The motion received 7 yes votes from Annie Frazier, Jamie Bitton, Janis Dubno, Marie Steffensen, Rebecca Banner, Seung-Hee Claire Son, and Jeremias Solari. 2 no votes from Jared Lisonbee and Trent Kaufman. Amy Terpstra was absent. Motion passes.</p> |

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|             | <p>changes the threshold itself but not the policy or procedures that have been put in place.</p> <p>b) Johnny Anderson from ABC beginnings for public comment asked if someone can work with the programs and staff if they are below the threshold?</p> <p>(1) Samantha Mafua reminded the board this change is for invoicing purposes only and not to change the 22.05 motion itself. The change in the threshold is when to send out the letter of notice of attendance. Jeremias Solari answered that the intent for this is to notify the program that the attendance isn't being met, not to change the policy of the amount they are being reimbursed.</p> <p>c) Christy stated Tooele School District reserves the amount of seats and does not give them to any other students. We are reasonable in the amount of seats we ask for.</p> |   |
|             | <p>I. Previous Motion of Three-Year Limitation to receive the Becoming High Quality Grant- Jeremias Solari and Rebecca Banner</p>  | <p>Rebecca motioned to put it as an agenda item for the September meeting. Jared Lisonbe seconded. The motion was carried unanimously. Agenda item to be added for the next meeting was approved.</p> |
| Adjournment | <p>Next Meeting:<br/>September 6, 2023<br/>1:00pm – 3:00pm</p>   | <p>Jeremias Solari called for a motion to adjourn. motioned. seconded. Meeting adjourned. Passed unanimously.</p>   |